

Debacle of the East Pakistan December 16, 1971

A Dark Day in the History of the Pakistan...

On August 14, 1947, Pakistan was comprised of two wings, East Bengal & West Pakistan. East Bengal remained part of Pakistan till 1947- 1971. December 16, 1971 was the darkest day in the history of the Pakistan, because Eastern Wing of Country was departed from Pakistan with a conspiracy of International Lobby (Israel, India, USA, and Russia). It resulted in a war with India which continued from November 22 to December 16, 1971. It was the biggest blunder by Politicians, Bureaucracies and Pak Army. Actually; we could not determine the real foe. International lobby was against the Pakistan and determined to chop off the country.

Background of Bengal:

Bengal is the eastern part of Subcontinent and most well off and fertile area since the history. It consists of 189000 SKM; according to the survey 1903, its population was about 7.80 millions. It was the multinational people province. Bengal was a huge province and later Behar, Assam, Orissa Provinces were created inside the Bengal. It was a Muslim majority area but there was massive hunger and poverty. Often, the natives faced Famine and Cyclone due to its geographical conditions. Administratively; it was difficult to operate it because the District Management was realized that it was unable to drive such a massive area. In 1899, Lord Curzon was appointed as new Governor General of the India, he visited Bengal in 1903 and realized that it was too much difficult to manage the Province. He proposed to the British Government on February 1904 for its Division (East & West Bengal). British Prime Minister accepted the proposal and decided to divide on October 16, 1905. It was purely an administrative issue but Hindu leaders made it a political issue. It was not the first time going to divide the Bengal, British Governor and Commissioners also gave a plan to divide in the earlier times.

Political Development in Bengal:

On the eve of Annual Session of the **All India Muhammadan Educational Conference at Dhaka on December 27, 1906**, all prominent leaders of Muslims were present there. Later the Conference; Nawab Waqar-ul-Mulk headed a meeting and stressed for the need of a political organization for the Muslims. He said, to protect the Rights of Muslims, we were grave concerns the day from the establishment of AINC; it was our dream that there should be a political party for Muslims in India. Nawab Saleem Ullah Khan presents a Resolution about AIML. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Hakeem Ajmal, Maulana Muhammad Ali Johar endorsed the Resolution. **So AIML was founded at Dhaka on December 30-31, 1906.**

The Bengalis took active part in Pakistan Movement, Moreover; **The Lahore Resolution 1940 was also presented by a Bengali Nationalist Mr. AK Fazal Haq.** In General Election of 1945-46 of United India, Bengal proved a historic victory in election and seal on election result that they wanted a separate homeland Pakistan. In this regard; The Provincial Assembly of Bengal passed a resolution with majority in favor to join Pakistan in 1947. On August 14, 1947 Pakistan was consists of two parts, one was East Wing & 2nd was West Wing. East Wing was cordon off by Indian Territory. Pakistan faced hug problems since the day first. Fiscal, Management, Trade, Ethnical, Political, Cultural, Linguists and Hindu Hegemony were most common problems. After Independence; the trust deficit was promoting among the East & West Pakistan. The Bengalis; often claimed that West Pakistan Political leaders & their politics hurts the Bengalis Political Rights. With the passage of time, these grievances were took serious shape. Constant political blunders by leaders of West Pakistan compelled the Bengalis for other option as like (Independence of Bengala).

“The Indian Think Tank” monitored the situation very closely; The Indian Intelligence Agency (RAW) directly involved in Separation of East Pakistan. RAW; politically motivate the Bengalis National against the Pakistan Government. Besides; RAW hijacked the political leadership of Bengalis. RAW distributed the Indian Currency, Arms & Ammunition and trained as Para-Military to political workers (Mukti Bahni) of Bengalis. Actually, Indian had a full campaign against through the day first. Unfortunately; Leadership of Pakistan could not

understand the Great Game by Indian, So that the result was surprisingly different.

There are Multiples Factors in Separation of East Pakistan:

- 1. Fiscal: On Financial Issues they were unsatisfied.**
- 2. Social:**
- 3. Moral:**
- 4. Militarily:**
- 5. Political Crisis 1954-71:**
- 6. Cultural Disharmony:**
- 7. Conspiracy Theory: Agartala 1967.**
- 8. International Lobby: UK-USSR-USA-Israel& India.**
- 9. Ideological Difference:**
- 10. Defense Point of View:**
- 11. Election Results of 1970:**
- 12. The Role of Mukti Bahni:**
- 13. Indian Negative Propaganda: 14% of Population & Monopoly.**
- 14. Pakistan fail to understand The Great Game:**
- 15. Black Add of Pakistan, Land , Aerial & Coastal:**
- 16. Operation Jackpot by Indian Intelligence RAW:**
- 17. India Recognized the Bengala Dash on December 6th,1971:**
- 18. Operation Searchlight March 25-December 16,1971:**
- 19. The Role of the Bangladesh Liberation Army BLA, 1971:**
- 20. Bangladesh announces Independence on March 26, 1971.**
- 21. Bangladesh Proclaimed Constitution on April 17th , 1971.**

22. Civil War in Bangladesh March 26— December 16, 1971.

Economic Exploitation, Discrimination and Disparity in East Pakistan.

Although East Pakistan had a larger population, West Pakistan dominated the divided country politically and received more money from the common budget. According to the World Bank, there was much economic discrimination against East Pakistan, including higher government spending on West Pakistan, financial transfers from East to West and the use of the East's foreign exchange surpluses to finance the West's imports. The discrimination occurred despite fact that East Pakistan generated a major share of Pakistan's exports. The annual rate of growth of the gross domestic product per capita was 4.4% in the West Pakistan versus 2.6% in East Pakistan from 1960 to 1965. Bengali politicians pushed for more autonomy, arguing that much of Pakistan's export earnings were generated in East Pakistan from the exportation of Bengali jute and tea. As late as 1960, approximately 70% of Pakistan's export earnings originated in East Pakistan, although this percentage declined as international demand for jute dwindled. By the mid-1960s, East Pakistan was accounting for less than 60% of the nation's export earnings, and by the time Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971, this percentage had dipped below 50%. In 1966, Mujib demanded that separate foreign exchange accounts be kept and that separate trade offices be opened overseas. By the mid-1960s, West Pakistan was benefiting from Ayub's "Decade of Progress" with its successful Green Revolution in wheat and from the expansion of markets for West Pakistani textiles, while East Pakistan's standard of living remained at an abysmally low level. Bengalis were also upset that West Pakistan, the seat of the national government, received more foreign aid. Economists in East Pakistan argued of a "Two Economies Theory" within Pakistan itself, which was founded on the Two Nation Theory with India. The so-called Two Economies Theory suggested that East and West Pakistan had different economic features which should not be regulated by a federal government in Islamabad.

Economic Exploitation in East Pakistan: 1947-1971.

With the surrender of our armed forces in East Pakistan the country stood dismembered and the nation humiliated. The image of the Pakistan army as a brave and excellent fighting force stood shattered. These losses cannot be assessed in material terms. It is fact that large quantities of military hardware and precious stores and equipment fell to the Indians after the war. These included aircraft, river craft, tanks, guns, signal equipment, vehicles, arms and ammunition as well as fuels and supplies. Civilian installations like radio stations jetties, port installations, ferries and ships partly damaged by enemy air action also fell into her hand. It has been estimated that the stores and equipment, which fell to the enemy at the time of the surrender far, exceeded the amount expended by the Pakistan armed forces during the war in East Pakistan.

- From 1948-60 East Pakistan's export earnings had been 70%, but its share of import earnings was only 25%.
- A sizable net transfer of resources had taken place from East to West Pakistan. The report states that, if allowance is made for the under valuation of foreign exchange in terms of Pakistan's domestic currency, the total transfer from East to West Pakistan over the period 1948/49-1968/69 was Rs 31,000,000,000 [1971 terms]. Using the then exchange rate of Rs 11.90 to the dollar, this worked out to 2.6 thousand million dollars in 1971 terms.

SOME CONSEQUENCES

- In 1948 there were 11 textile mills in the East and only 9 in the West.
- In 1971 there were 26 in the East as opposed to 150 in the West.
- East Pakistan's economy transformed from a surplus one to a deficit one.

Conclusion

In the end of the report this is the summary of conclusions on the causes of surrender of East Pakistan. I think that the defeat suffered by the armed forces of Pakistan was not merely the result of military factors alone but had been brought about as the cumulative result of political, international, moral and military factors.

- 1. The direct and devastating effects of political situation during the military regime itself were the prolonged involvement of army in counter insurgency**

measures throughout the province and forces deployment along the borders. Due to these factors the army was fighting a losing battle from the very start.

- 2. The major role in the 1971 disaster had been that of the ground forces and the strategic concept required revision in the light of the situation but the army high command did not carried out the in-depth analysis.**
- 3. The planning was hopelessly defective and there was no plan for some important areas like Dacca.**
- 4. There was no order to surrender but that in view of the desperate picture painted by the commander eastern command the higher authorities only gave him permission to surrender.**
- 5. The responsibility of these failures lies with the commander eastern command the GHQ cannot escape its responsibility as the plan had been approved by it. It was also the responsibility of the GHQ to correct the mistakes of the eastern command.**
- 6. There was a lack of moral character and courage in the senior army commanders.**

The surrender in East Pakistan has indeed been a tragic blow to the nation. By the act of surrender the image of Pakistan army as an efficient and excellent fighting force stood shattered. The situation that resulted in the movement for independence was also responsible i-e the economic exploitation of East Pakistan in the hands of West. I can only hope that the nation has learnt the necessary lessons from these tragic events.

Bibliography

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- The Report of the Hamood-ur-Rehman Commission of inquiry into the War of 1971.

Development Outlay for Pakistan from 1947-48 to 1960-61		
	East Pakistan	West Pakistan
In millions of Rupees		
Government Investment	1720	4300
Government Loans	184	2240
Aid	76	1010

Central Government Civil Service (1955)		
Position	East Pakistan	West Pakistan
Secretary	0	19
Joint Secretary	3	38
Deputy Secretary	10	123
Assistant Secretary	38	510

Foreign Trade Figures (millions of rupees)				
5 Year Period	East Pakistan		West Pakistan	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
1947-52	4582	2129	3786	4769
1952-57	3969	2159	3440	5105

Personnel	Number
Army	54,154
Navy	1,381
Air force	833
Paramilitary including police	22,000
Civilian personnel	12,000
Total	90,368

Years	The Per Capita Income Distribution in Pakistan [In Rupees]		
	East Pakistan	West Pakistan	Difference
1959-60	269	355	32%
1964-65	285.5	419	46.7%
1968-69	291	473.4	62.6%

Province	Population in millions		
	1951	1961	1971
East Pakistan	41.9	50.8	70
West Pakistan	33.7	42.9	60

Year	Spending on West Pakistan (in millions of Pakistani rupees)	Spending on East Pakistan (in millions of Pakistani rupees)	Amount spent on East as percentage of West
1950–55	11,290	5,240	46.4
1955–60	16,550	5,240	31.7
1960–65	33,550	14,040	41.8
1965–70	51,950	21,410	41.2
Total	113,340	45,930	40.5
Source: Reports of the Advisory Panels for the Fourth Five Year Plan 1970–75, Vol. I, published by the planning commission of Pakistan.			

Hamoodur Rahman Commission:

December 26, 1971.

CJP: Chief Justice of Pakistan Headed the Commission

- **CJP; Hamoodur Rahman (Chairman).**
- **Senior Justice Anwar Haq (Vice Chairman).**
- **Senior Justice Tufail Rahman (CJ of Sindh High Court).**
- **Two additional members from (Baluchistan High Court).**
- **Lt. General (Retired) Altaf Qadir was a Military Adviser.**

The **Hamoodur Rahman Commission** is well known as "**War Enquiry Commission**". It was a Judicial Inquiry about failure of Military in East Pakistan December 3-16, 1971. The Commission was constituted on December 26, 1971 by the President of Pakistan Mr. Z.A. Bhutto and headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Hamoodur Rahman.

The Commission started its work and investigated over 200 personnel included Civil & Army Officers. The Commission examined nearly 300 witnesses in total, hundreds of classified documents and military signals between East and West Pakistan.

The final report was very lengthy and provided an analysis based on extensive interviews and testimonies. Its primary conclusion was very critical of the role of Pakistan's military interference, the misconduct of politicians as well as the intelligence failures of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), which permitted the infiltration of Indian agents all along the borders of East Pakistan.

The final report was submitted on October 23, 1974 to the Govt of Pakistan. The Report highlighted the Administrative, Political, Fiscal, Military and Moral blunders were responsible for the surrender of Arm forces in East Pakistan.